



National Gallery of Art

6th Street and Constitution Avenue NW Washington, DC  
Mailing address 2000B South Club Drive Landover, MD 20785



Allan McCollum, *Collection of Four Hundred and Eighty  
Plaster Surrogates*, 1982/1989, enamel on cast Hydro-Stone,  
National Gallery of Art, Washington, Gift of the Collectors  
Committee. Image: installed at Friedrich Petzel Gallery,  
2010 © Allan McCollum 2013

[www.nga.gov/programs/lectures](http://www.nga.gov/programs/lectures)

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Washington, DC  
Permit No. 9712

# Elson Lecture

## Allan McCollum, artist

March 27, 2014 / 3:30 pm / East Building Auditorium

Born in Los Angeles in 1944, Allan McCollum briefly considered a career in theater before attending trade school to study restaurant management and industrial kitchen work. In the late 1960s, he began to educate himself as an artist. Applying strategies of mass production to handmade objects, McCollum has spent nearly fifty years exploring how works of art achieve personal and public meaning in a world largely constituted within the manners of industrial production. McCollum has given attention to the “drama of quantities” in his pursuit of the dynamic relationship between work and viewer. His installations — large fields of related small-scale works, each usually unique and categorically arranged — are the products of various systems. By engaging a cast of assistants, scientists, and local craftspeople in his processes, McCollum has often embraced a collaborative and democratic artistic practice. His approach to art cuts across its hierarchies — by medium, audience, context, and preconception.

While McCollum is an autodidact who never attended college or art school, he has taught art at such institutions as MIT and served as a visiting critic at Columbia and Yale Universities, among others. He has participated in many exhibitions worldwide, including those at the Metropolitan Museum of Art (2009), the Museum of Modern Art (most recently in 2007), and the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum (2004), as well as the Bienal de São Paulo (2008). Notable among his more than one hundred solo exhibitions are those at the Friedrich Petzel Gallery, New York (most recently in 2013), the Barbara Krackow Gallery, Boston (2008), and the Musée d’art moderne et contemporain, Geneva (2006). McCollum lives and works in New York.

The Elson Lecture Series features distinguished contemporary artists whose work is represented in the Gallery’s permanent collection. The Honorable and Mrs. Edward E. Elson generously endowed this series in 1992. Recordings of Elson lectures are available at [go.usa.gov/ZHNh](http://go.usa.gov/ZHNh).

This lecture is free and open to the public. Seating is available on a first-come, first-seated basis. The East Building of the National Gallery of Art is located at 4th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue NW.